

**1 JULY 1998**



**Operations Support**

**PARARESCUE**

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Pages: 5  
Distribution: F

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The recovery of downed aircrew members and other isolated personnel during peacetime or combat operations is of great importance to the Air Force. Successful survivor/evader recovery returns valuable personnel to friendly control, increases aircrew morale, and denies adversaries the opportunity to exploit the intelligence and propaganda value of captured personnel. The Air Force requires a well trained, fully manned pararescue force in order to preserve life and maintain an effective, global rescue and recovery capability in support of national defense strategy.

1. Pararescue is a component of the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) force or part of Air Force Special Operations Command Special Tactics Teams (STS) and provides a capability Joint Force Commanders can use to recover combat aircrews and other isolated personnel in Personnel Recovery (PR) operations. Pararescue is the only DoD specialty specifically trained and equipped to conduct conventional or unconventional PR operations and is the force of choice for assisted survivor recovery. Pararescue performs as an essential air/ground interface in Air Force and Special Operations search, rescue, and recovery operations by functioning on flying status and as surface elements and teams. They provide a rapid response capability and operate in a wide range of adverse geographic and environmental conditions, day or night, on land or water, in friendly, denied, hostile, or sensitive areas. They also provide survival and evasion assistance, emergency and field trauma care, and security. Pararescue forces are capable of moving objectives (personnel and materiel) to safety or friendly control when direct recovery by aircraft is not possible.

2. Pararescue requirements are based on the following guidelines:

2.1. Pararescuemen will be qualified in accordance with AFM 36-2108

2.2. Pararescuemen will be trained as a worldwide deployable resource capable of operations in any terrain or under any environmental conditions (both naturally occurring and induced). They can be successfully employed, day or night, in low, medium, or high threat environments.

3. The following responsibilities and authorities are established:

3.1. HQ USAF has oversight responsibility for pararescue policy and career field management. Specifically, HQ USAF/XO will establish and approve policies pertaining to the training and employment of pararescuemen, coordinate Mission Essential Tasks (MET) and measures to meet pararescue validated requirements, and publish and update the Pararescue Career Field Education and Training Plan (CFETP).

3.2. MAJCOMs will organize, train, and equip pararescue forces to meet worldwide deployment taskings; provide resources to support pararescue combat tasks; ensure pararescue programs are directed to meet qualifications IAW AFI 16-1203, *Pararescue Training and Standardization/Evaluation*; conduct pararescue proficiency assessment; and develop, test, and validate proposed enhancements to pararescue equipment and tactics based on validated mission needs and operational requirements documentation.

3.3. Gaining (supported) commands/units will direct by contingency plan or tasking message the mission requirements for deploying pararescue personnel.

4. See **Attachment 1** for measures used to comply with this policy.
5. See **Attachment 2** for a listing of interfacing publications for related policies and procedures.

F. WHITTEN PETERS  
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

**Attachment 1****MEASURING AND DISPLAYING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY**

**A1.1.** Compliance with Air Force pararescue policy will be assessed in two areas: An objective evaluation of pararescue qualification training during MAJCOM Operational Readiness Inspections (ORI) or MAJCOM specific Inspector General Inspections or MAJCOM Unit Compliance Inspections (UCI), and the overall retention rate of first term and career airmen by major command. Retention rates will be reported to MAJCOMs annually. These events will measure the effectiveness of training programs. A review of pararescue operational mission and event after action reports will indicate compliance with equipment and operational policies.

A1.1.1. Retention rate of first term and career airmen. The overall retention rate of first term and career airmen will be reported by major command annually (**Figure A1.1.**). Length of the pararescue training pipeline (which make rapid adjustments difficult) and historical overall manning problems require that HQ Air Force and MAJCOMs monitor closely the health of the career field to ensure operational recovery capabilities provided by pararescue are not degraded. Monitoring of retention rates will ensure MAJCOMs are proactive in establishing policies that will maintain a motivated, fully trained, and employable pararescue force for any level of conflict.

A1.1.2. Pararescue Qualification Training. MAJCOMs will report (**Figure A1.2.**) the results of ORI evaluations of pararescue qualification training annually in terms of percentage compliance with established policies.

A1.1.3. After Action Reports. These reports are a summary of actions performed on actual missions. Deviations from standard use of equipment and procedures will be compiled, expressed as a percentage of policy compliance (same format shown in **Figure A1.2.**) and reviewed at least annually.

Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of Retention of First Term Airman (Career Airman retention will use same format).

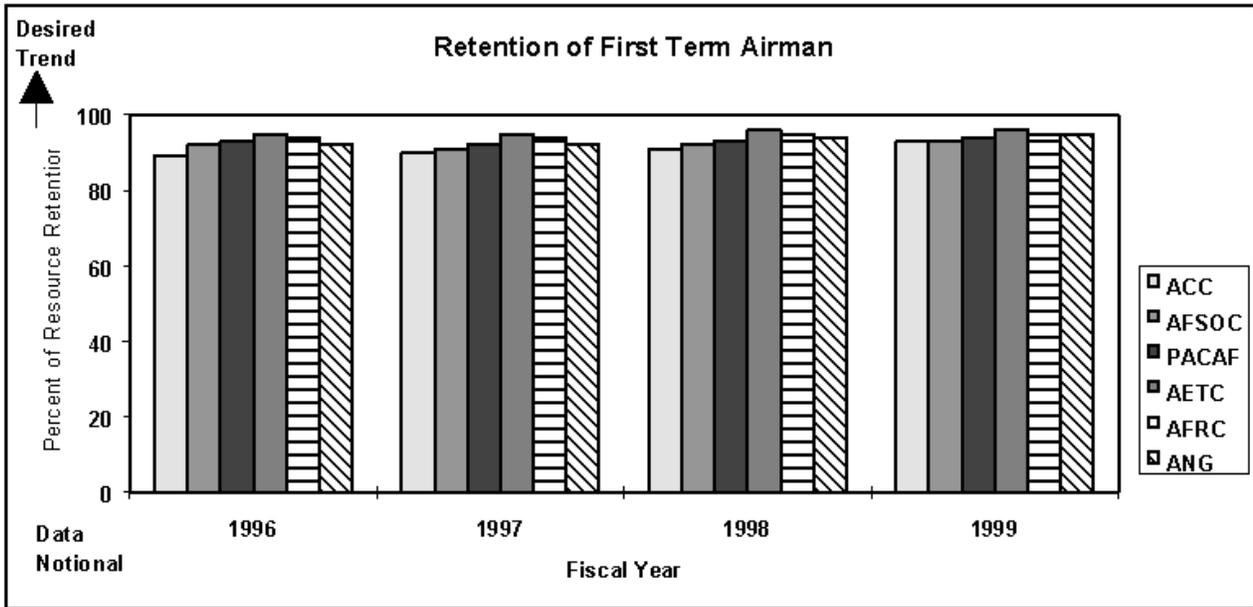
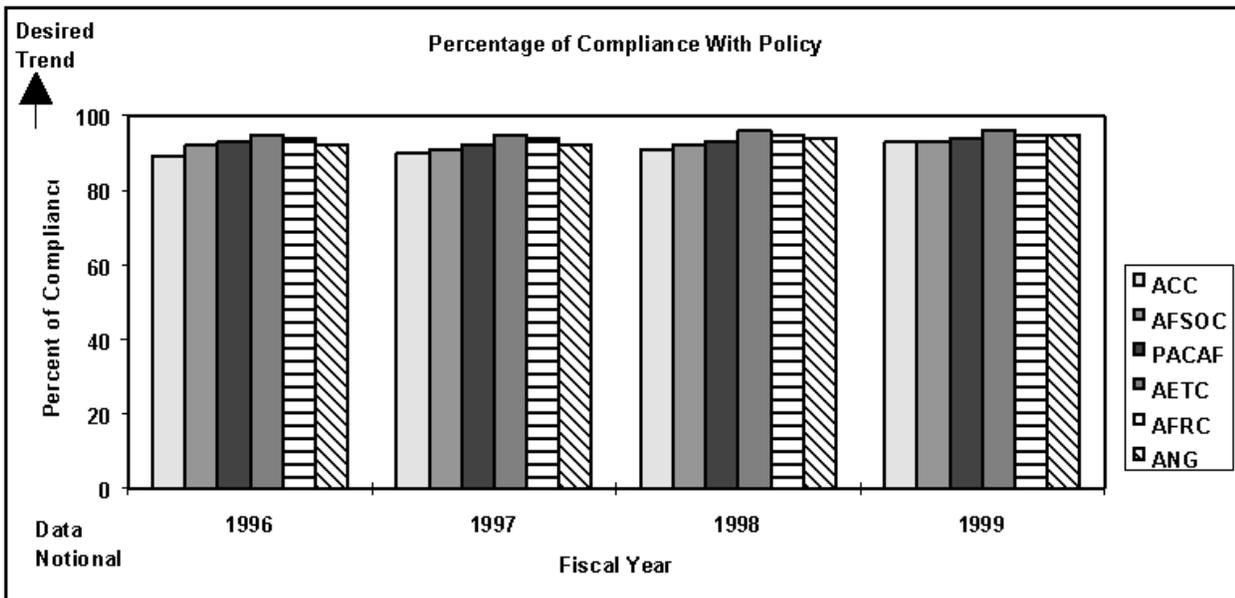


Figure A1.2. Sample Metric of Compliance with Policy.



## Attachment 2

## LIST OF INTERFACING PUBLICATIONS

<b>Publication Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Formerly</b>
AFPD 10-4	Operations Planning	No Former Publication
AFPD 31-1	Physical Security	No Former Publication
AFDD 34	Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR)	No Former Publication
AFDD 35	Special Operations	No Former Publication
AFI 10-401	Operation Plan and Concept Plan Development and Implementation	AFRs 28-2, 28-3, 28-4, 28-6, 28-10 and AFP 28-33
AFI 10-403	Deployment Planning	AFR 28-4
AFI 16-1201	Pararescue Resource Management	No Former Publication
AFI 16-1203	Pararescue Training and Standardization/Evaluation	No Former Publication
AFI 31-207	Arming and Use of Force by Air Force Personnel	AFR 125-26
AFI 36-2226	Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Program	AFR 50-36
AFMAN 16-1202	Pararescue Operations, Techniques, and Procedures	ARRSR 55-11, Vols 1 & 2
AFMAN 36-2216	Survival, Evasion, and Recovery Training	AFR 64-4, Vol 1